

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 096956
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 096956

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK, BUDAPEST,
PARIS, PRAGUE, SOFIA, HONG KONG, UDORN, GENEVA, CINCPAC
FOR POLAD, DEA WASHDC FROM VIENTIANE APRIL 23:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0761

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR PORG LA UN BU CZ HU

SUBJECT: UN CONCERN OVER LPDR ATTITUDE ON OPIUM PRODUCTION

1. CHEF DE CABINET SOUBANH SRITHIRATH, APRIL 22,
REJECTED UNFDAC'S PROPOSALS FOR USE OF \$200,000 IN AID
FOR 1977 AND DEMANDED THAT THE SUM BE USED IN ACCOR-
DANCE WITH AN LPDR PLAN INSTEAD.

2. THE GOVERNMENT PLAN WOULD ALLOCATED \$165,000 IN
UNFDAC FUNDS TO AN AGRICULTURAL WORK-SITE PROJECT
PRESENTLY ACCOMMODATING FIFTY EX-DRUG ADDICTS. THE
SITE, LOCATED AT KILOMETER 62 ON HIGHWAY 13 NORTH OF
VIENTIANE, WOULD BE EXPANDED TO ACCOMMODATE APPROXI-
MATELY SIXTY FAMILIES OF EX-ADDICTS. THE GOVERNMENT
PLAN WOULD ALLOCATE \$35,000 TO A CROP SUBSTITUTION-
POPPY ERADICATION PROJECT IN THE MUONG KASSY AREA.
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 096956

3. UNFDAC'S PROPOSAL WOULD ALLOCATED \$150,000 TO THE
MUONG KASSY PROJECT AND \$50,000 TO THE KILOMETER 62
SITE.

4. FRED MACKENZIE, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF UNFDAC, CALLED ON ME AT HOME APRIL 22 TO

EXPLAIN THE ABOVE AND SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO OBTAIN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LAO BEFORE HIS APRIL 23 DEPARTURE, HE COULD NOT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE ACCEDE TO THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL FOR USE OF UNFDAC FUNDS.

5. HE ASKED MY ADVICE, SPECIFICALLY IF I THOUGH THAT AN UNFDAC REFUSAL TO ACCEPT THE GOVERNMENT PLAN MIGHT RESULT IN A LAO REQUEST THAT THE UNFDAC MISSION TO LAOS DEPART. I EXPLAINED THAT THOUGH AN EXPULSION OF UNFDAC WOULD BE UNLIKELY GIVEN SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT TO THE LPDR FROM OTHER UN AGENCIES, THE LPDR WAS AT TIMES UNPREDICTABLE. I SUGGESTED THAT HE TELL THE LAO HE WOULD HAVE TO CARRY THE LPDR PROPOSAL BACK TO GENEVA FOR REVIEW BY HIS SUPERIORS.

6. MACKENZIE ALSO SAID HE WAS CONCERNED BECAUSE OF REPORTS THAT THE BULGARIANS HAVE SIGNED A PROTOCOL WITH THE LAO TO EXPORT LAO OPIUM FOR PROCESSING AND FURTHER DISTRIBUTION BY THE BULGARIANS. HE NOTED THAT THIS WAS CLEARLY ILLEGAL.

7. ON APRIL 21 HE HAD ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE WHO REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENTIANE APPEARED TO BE ENCOURAGING THE LAO TO PROCEED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY FOR THE PROCESSING OF OPIUM INTO PRODUCTS FOR USE WITHIN LAOS. HE SAID THAT THE PLAN TO BE COMPLETED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE HUNGARIANS, CZECHOSLOVAKIANS AND BULGARIANS, WAS ILLEGAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 096956

ADVISED BECAUSE THE LAO DID NOT HAVE THE MEANS OF CONTROLLING SUCH A PRODUCTION EFFORT THE WAY IT COULD BE CONTROLLED IN INDIA OR TURKEY FOR EXAMPLE.

8. HE SAID THAT THE UNCB BOARD HAD ALREADY WRITTEN A CONFIDENTIAL LETTER EXPRESSING ITS DEEP CONCERN TO THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT OVER THE REPORTED PROJECT.

9. NDRE SAENGER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF NARCOTICS, UN-GENEVA, SAID IN CONVERSATION APRIL 20 THAT HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE WHO REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENTIANE, DR. LECLERCQ, APPEARED TO BE TAKING A POSITION FAVORABLE TO SUCH PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTION WHICH WAS CONTRARY NOT ONLY TO THE UNFDAC POSITION BUT TO THE WHO HEAD OFFICE POSITION. HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO REQUEST THAT DR. LECLERCQ BE CALLED IN TO CONSULTATION IN GENEVA DURING HIS HOME LEAVE PERIOD. HE WAS ALSO GOING TO ASK THE HEAD OF WHO TO ASSURE HIM THAT WHO WAS SATISFIED THAT DR. LECLERCQ WAS OPERATING ON

THE SAME BASIS AS WHO AND ENJOYED ITS FULL CONFIDENCE.
IF THIS WERE NOT SO, HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO REQUEST
DR. LECLERCQ'S WITHDRAWAL FROM LAOS.

10 SAENGER ALSO SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY CHEF DE
CABINET SOUBANH SRITHIRATH HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE
OFFICIAL LPDR POLICY WAS TO ELIMINATE OPIUM PRODUCTION.
NEVERTHELESS, THE LAO SEEMED TO THINK THAT THEY COULD
ACCOMPLISH THIS ELIMINATION AT A LATER STAGE WHILE IN
THE SHORT RUN ENCOURAGING PRODUCTION BY THE MEO POPU-
LATION. THEY SEEMED TO THINK THEY COULD EVENTUALLY
ERADICATE OPIUM PRODUCTION BY RELOCATING THE MEOS IN
THE LOWLAND AREAS OF LAOS. SAENGER TOLD THEM THAT
THIS WAS IMPRACTICAL. CORCORAN UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770149-1286
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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